

From: **Sherry Hocking**

Date: Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 1:08 PM

Subject: Re: ETC @ archive.org

To: Erik Gavriluk

As someone whose family had been intimately involved with local public libraries and education, I started collecting information when we began ETC. I saved all things paper - programs, promotional brochures, texts. Ralph and I personally bought books and magazines and put it all into the "ETC Library" where I made a card catalogue. The materials were available to people at ETC. Some of the Cinema students of Ralph's as well as a few community artists also added materials. It grew organically.

So the research activities began as a foundational program, along with the residencies and equipment access, as well as workshops and exhibitions. They each fed the other.

I learn best by putting thoughts into words, so I began writing texts on electronics theory, and the equipment being designed by artists/technologists as a way for me to teach myself the basic notions of the art. In the 1970s Ralph and I collaborated with Woody and Steina Vasulka to work on a research project/book to document early video tools and systems. The audio interviews with tool makers done by Jon Burris and a few by Woody were part of this effort, along with some of the longer texts on sync, scanning and the concepts of basic electronic processes which Ralph and I wrote.

A parallel interest was capturing the history of video in New York State, making sure that Upstate New York was represented. So I began to assemble materials on the various groups and collectives which began in the late 60s early 70s, including brochures, newsletters, exhibition materials and such.

Art history was also a personal interest, so we collected texts on media history and theory, and contemporary arts practice as well.

Eventually we decided that the materials demanded a means of presentation which was more interactive than a book, and began to explore the idea of web-based information. At that time, the tools weren't really there to achieve our goals, but this was the genesis of the History Project's efforts to make video history accessible to all.

In order to make a coherent presentation about ETC programs to possible funders (of which there were very few for these activities), we bundled all these educational and research efforts together under the concept of preservation. The early preservation activities eventually led to the Video History Project, which was really a name for things we had been doing for many years.

The texts that you've highlighted here were based on the materials in the ETC collection for the most part. We used texts and notes which I had been making for years as starting points for the materials eventually posted in the Groups and the Tools sections of the site. A number of people worked on the research over the years - they are credited in the video history area, but notably: Matt Schlanger, Neil Zusman, Peer Bode, Hank Rudolph, Dave Jones; Pamela Susan Hawkins, Carolyn Tennant, Kathy High, Mona Jimenez. There are others.

The ETC Research program was a foundational program, and eventually incorporated web education, publishing, and preservation activities. As I've said, we expanded the definition of preservation beyond the recorded materials, to include tools, and origin stories.

Sherry

<https://archive.org/details/ETC3008>

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<https://archive.org/details/ETC3012>

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<https://archive.org/details/ETC3016>

Sherry Hocking and Pamela Susan Hawkins

<https://archive.org/details/ETC3027>

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